



THE BOTTOM LINE

DBPR encourages tailgating safety

As the collegiate and professional football season kicks off, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) reminds fans to be safe and responsible when attending sporting events this fall.

DBPR's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) is committed to keeping football season enjoyable for everyone by keeping alcohol and tobacco out of the hands of underage individuals. While education and prevention of sales and access at retail outlets are primary methods for protecting Florida's youth, ABT agents will monitor event venues throughout the state this fall to ensure compliance with the Florida Beverage Law.

It's important to know Florida's alcoholic beverage laws, as well as the consequences for underage drinking and possession of alcoholic beverages.

- The legal drinking age in Florida is 21. Anyone under the age of 21 in possession of alcohol can be cited for a second-degree misdemeanor, which can lead to costly court fees, fines and other lasting consequences.
- Selling or serving alcohol to anyone under 21 is a misdemeanor.
- Possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a vehicle (in motion or stopped) by the driver and/or the passenger(s) is a violation of Florida law.

Floridians enjoy some of the best college football in the nation, and fall is a time to come together and cheer on our favorite teams. So as you're prepping the grill and packing your cooler, remember to tailgate safely and responsibly.

Alcoholic beverage license fees change Oct. 1

Updated annual license fees for alcoholic-beverage licenses take effect Oct. 1, 2018.

For the license year beginning Oct. 1, 2018, license fees applicable to three counties will be reduced based on updated population data.



Based on the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2017 Florida Estimates of Population, the estimated populations of Baker County (24,808) and Bradford County (24,673) each decreased to less than 25,000. Accordingly, the license series for spirituous alcoholic beverage licenses in Baker and Bradford Counties will change from 7COP to 8COP for consumption on premises licenses and from 3CPS to 3DPS for package-sales-only licenses. The decrease in population also qualifies alcoholic-beverage licenses in these counties to be issued at the fee rate applicable to licenses in counties with a population of less than 25,000.

For Jackson County, the 2017 Florida Estimates of Population reflect an estimated population of 43,055. This qualifies alcoholic-beverage licenses in the county to be issued at the fee rate applicable to licenses in counties with a population between 25,000 and 50,000. The license series for spirituous alcoholic-beverage licenses in Jackson County also will change from 6COP to 7COP for consumption-on-premises licenses and from 3BPS to 3CPS for package-sales-only licenses.

Quota beverage license entry period now open

On Aug. 20, the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco began accepting Quota Beverage License Drawing Entry Forms for the 2018 entry period. Interested parties may submit an entry form to be considered for the priority right to apply and qualify for one of 59 quota alcoholic-beverage licenses available in 30 counties. Drawing details and a list of available licenses and counties is available at www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/alcoholic-beverages-and-tobacco/. The annual 45-day entry period closes at 5 p.m. on Oct. 3, 2018.



Division issues 250th state brewery license

Growth in Florida malt-beverage manufacturing continues based on FY 2017-18 data

- Currently there are 254 malt beverage manufacturers with active Florida licenses.
- The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco issued the 250th malt-beverage manufacturer license on July 31, 2018.
- The division issued 50 new manufacturer licenses in FY 2017-18, representing a 26 percent increase in the license population compared to FY 2016-17.
- In FY 2017-18, Florida breweries paid a total excise tax of \$1,314,436 and Florida brew pubs paid \$131,988 for products manufactured and sold on site.

Philpot directs Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

Thomas Philpot serves as director of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco. Appointed in January 2015, Philpot oversees the division's core functions in auditing, licensing and enforcement. He previously served as the division's deputy director.



Thomas Philpot

Philpot represents the State of Florida as the Third Vice President on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA). In this capacity and in his prior role as chair of the NCSLA Southern Region, he collaborates with state regulatory officials across the 11 member-states in the region on current issues of regulatory and industry concern relating to alcoholic beverages.

Philpot is a member of The Florida Bar. Before joining the Division, he represented clients in private practice across a broad portfolio of governmental and regulatory legal matters. Before practicing law, he served as an on-the-record spokesperson and media liaison for Florida Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist and completed fellowships in the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget and the Florida House of Representatives Economic Affairs Committee.

Philpot earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a juris doctor degree from the Florida State University College of Law, where he served as president of the Moot Court Team.